



## **Helicopter to make low-level flights over Teapot Dome Oilfield**

**Casper, Wyo. – August 1, 2007** – A helicopter will be seen making low-level flights at Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 3 (NPR-3) near Midwest in the coming week as part of a test being performed at the Rocky Mountain Oilfield Testing Center (RMOTC). Fugro Airborne Surveys will be performing testing of its airborne magnetic and gas-sensing survey equipment beginning Thursday.

The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), RMOTC, and Fugro recently partnered to test a novel helicopter-mounted magnetic and gas-sensing survey technology at NPR-3. The surveying equipment uses aeromagnetism to make an inventory of wells, pipelines, and other oilfield infrastructure at the 10,000-acre site. The system carries two magnetic sensors beneath a helicopter on two laterally mounted booms. The helicopter flies at 60 feet above the ground and travels at about 90 mph.

Sensors on board during the flight also measure methane emissions from various sources including wellheads, pipelines, production facilities, and produced water ponds. Emissions cost the gas industry millions of dollars every year and release millions of cubic feet of methane to the atmosphere.

The helicopter's equipment will be based out of the Natrona County International Airport. The pilot and crew are specially trained for low-level flight.

RMOTC is a Department of Energy (DOE) field test site for emerging and developing technologies to address critical energy issues. The field test site is a 10,000-acre operating oil field offering a full complement of associated facilities and equipment on site. There are approximately 700 well bores with 600 producing wells ranging in depth from 500 to 5,000 feet.

Fugro Airborne Surveys is a leader in the application of airborne geophysical survey services. It designs and builds its own highly specialized systems carried by helicopter over the ground that is being explored. Since 1999, Fugro has flown thousands of line miles of helicopter magnetic and gas-sensing surveys for the DOE in Wyoming, California, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Virginia.

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